

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 ACDA-10 AID-05

EB-08 COME-00 SCA-01 SCSE-00 PC-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01

MC-02 /136 W

-----142239Z 071182 /72-62

R 141413Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1722

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS PARIS 10890

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CG

SUBJ: SHABA INVASION: INTERVIEW WITH GEN. M'BUMBA

1. IN A TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW WITH INTER PRESS SERVICE CARRIED IN THE SOCIALIST DAILY LE MATIN DE PARIS ON APRIL 12, KATANGAN COMMANDER GEN. NATANIEL M'BUMBA STATES: "WE THINK THAT WE MUST DRIVE MOBUTU FROM POWER AND CREATE A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. WE WANT LEADERS WHO ARE NOT DISCREDITED." M'BUMBA SAYS HE WILL NOT ACCEPT MEDIATION AND THAT ALL OF MOBUTU'S TEAM MUST BE "LIQUIDATED."

2. M'BUMBA CLAIMS TO CONTROL MUTSHATSHA, KISENJI, KASAJI, SANDOA, DILOLO AND KAPANGA. HE SAYS THE FAZ LOST HUNDREDS OF MEN AT KASAJI AND THAT THE KATANGANS RECOVERED 15 ARMORED VEHICLES. A LARGE QUANTITY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN EQUIPMENT WAS CAPTURED AT MUTSHATSHA, AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, MUNITIONS AND BOMBS. CERTAIN PRISONERS HAVE CHARGED THAT THEY WERE MISTREATED BY ZAIRIAN OFFICERS AND THE KATANGANS FOUND DEAD ZAIRIAN SOLDIERS PADLOCKED TO THEIR VEHICLES.

3. ACCORDING TO M'BUMBA, BELGIANS AND FRENCHMEN ARE

LOCATED AT KOLWEZI, FUNGURUME AND LUBUMBASHI TO WHICH THE ZAIRIAN ARMY RETREATED AFTER THE FALL OF MUTSHATSHA. FOREIGN TROOPS ARE ADVANCING TOWARDS KATANGAN POSITIONS, BUT "THEY HAVE NO CHANCE TO DEFEAT US." HE SAYS THAT THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS ARE JOINING HIS FORCES AND THAT THE VILLAGERS RECEIVE THEM WITH JOY.

4. LIFE IN CAPTURED VILLAGES IS NORMAL, M'BUMBA SAYS, TRADERS ARE STILL THERE, BUT THE SUPPLY SITUATION IS DIFFICULT AND COULD BECOME SERIOUS. AS FOR MISSIONARIES, THEY DID NOT WISH TO DEPART. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT BEEN HARMED, MILITARY REASONS REQUIRED THE SEIZURE OF THEIR RADIOS. IN THE MINES, EXCEPT FOR MANGANESE, EXPLOITATION CONTINUES EVERYWHERE. FOREIGN ENGINEERS HAVE NOT BEEN TOUCHED. THE FNLC'S ONLY TARGET IS THE ZAIRIAN ARMY. FINALLY, M'BUMBA SAYS THAT THE RAILROAD HAS NOT BEEN CUT AND THAT FROM KOLWEZI TO THE ZAMBIAN BORDER, COPPER CONTINUES TO FLOW NORMALLY. HARLAN

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Message Attributes

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